Democratic Matchman

#### INK SLINGS. -It is to be hoped that the Socialist government in Reading will not be

disappointing. -Colonel Lindbergh is now a Mas-

ter of Science in Aeronautics and a constantly increasing popular favorite.

-Some Philadelphia doctors have started a movement to reform office chairs and users of the chairs will wish them success.

-Up to this moment we had utterly lost sight of the fact that only thirty-seven days intervene until Chrismas. Shop now.

-The attempt to assassinate Obregon in Mexico City on Sunday failed. fortunately, and the voters still have one candidate for President.

-Mayor-elect Mackey of Philadelphia has gone to Europe on a vacation and Boss Vare will likely form the cabinet in the meantime.

-The recent developments in the Fall-Sinclair conspiracy trial may result in some reforms in the methods of detective agencies in the future.

-The Democratic candidate for Governor of Kentucky was defeated because he is opposed to horse racing. Thus political issues are increasing.

-The King of Hedjaz has automobiles built to carry twelve wives. If ings. he drives the car he is likely to have all sorts of trouble from the back seats.

-We of the champagne taste and the beer pocket-book look on the general reference to next Thursday as "Turkey Day" with much the same

-The Philippine Islands press and the Pennsylvania newspapers are a unit in favor of General Frank R. McCoy for Governor of the Islands. If President Coolidge will adopt their view it will be unanimous.

-John Curtin, Dr. David Dale and Willis Shuey have returned from their two week's outing in the Seven Mountains, with 14 pheasants, 1 turkey, 5 rabbits and 4 grey squirrel. The small bag can only be accounted for m one of two ways: Either game was unusually scarce or Willis stayed in camp most of the time.

-Since Senator Borah thinks the prohibition question should be paramount in the next presidential campaign we suggest that the Republicans name a wet Protestant and that the Democrats persuade Al Smith to run as a dry Catholic. Such an alignment, to our mind, would produce more political "strange bed-fellows" than this or any other country ever saw.

-Among other things we are go-



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Anthracite Congress Interesting but Futile.

The anthracite co-operative congress which sat and presumably deliberated at Shamokin last week was an interesting enterprise even though it failed somewhat in achievement. Almost everybody east of the Allegheny mountains is concerned in the anthracite industry and the purpose of the congress was to promote its prosperity. Recent regrettable events. such as miners' strikes and operators' lockouts, have impaired the success of the buisness to a menacing degree and the congress was called with the hope of devising means to restore it to health and vigor. Herbert Hoover, the necromancer of commerce and in. and protection to the other. It is a dustry, was summoned from Washing- sad state of affairs. ton to lay the lines for its proceed-

Governor Fisher was the first speaker after Mr. Hoover and he promised to approve an act to repeal the anthracite tax law and expressed confidence that "the strength and wisdom represented here will be able to find the way from present depression zest as one approaches a dish of to a healthy state of business activ-"mock turtle" soup. to a healthy state of business activ-ity," rather a handsome bouquet but

of little practical value. Then Mr. Warriner, head of the operators' organization, suggested advertising the virtues of the fuel, which secured him a head line in the reports of the proceedings. Mr. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, created something like a panic on the floor by protesting with some vehemence that the mine workers were not responsible for recent strikes.

Various methods were suggested to accomplish the purpose for which the congress was assembled. In addition to the obviously wise plan of liberally advertising, better mining and operating methods, better co-operation between mine workers and operators and better co-operation between producers and retailers, were suggested. But not a word was said in favor of the only process which can possibly achieve the purpose of the congress. The supreme reason for the diminishing use of anthracite coal is the exorbitant price charged consumers. Whether because of tax or strikes the price of anthracite has soared to an in the many frauds will be shown altitude that has put it out of the reach of the average wage earner in the country.

Not Surprising but Disappointing.

The result of the election in Philadelphia is not surprising. The ma-jority for Mr. Mackey, the Vare candidate for Mayor, may be a trifle larger than most persons expected. but that is not a matter of great importance. Money is a potent force in politics and the Vare machine had millions to spend whilst the opposing contingent was unable to collect enough to meet the legitimate expenses of the contest. The capitalists and the bootleggers made common cause in an effort to perpetuate the misgovernment of the city in order to share the advantages which are to be obtained by favoritism to one

But though the candidates of the large majorities the real purpose of there are only four Republican attorthe Vare machine has not been accomplished. Mr. Vare's selfish and sinister ambition to completely control all the departments of the municipal government may have been fulfilled. But the supreme purpose of Mr. Vare in this instance was to convey to the Senate in Washington and the country at large the belief that the bogus majority given to him in Philadelphia last year was an honest expression of the political sentiment. The majority for Mr. Mackey is approximately 100,000 less than to that received by him last year and that figure expresses the fraudulent votes cast for Vare.

The hope of the managers of the Vare machine was that the election of his hand-picked candidates this year by majorities equal or nearly equal would entice the Senators to believe that the Vare majority was an honest time comes. Influenced by this expectation the Vare machine collected and disbursed at least a million dollars in the alleged purchase of votes and bribing voters to support the Vare ticket. Even if the figures of this year had been made to equal those of last year this result would not have been achieved, for court records have already shown many frauds last year, in the vote this year.

Many Will Jump When the Plum Tree is Shaken.

Rumors are already rife that there is sure to be a scramble when the newly-elected county officials shake the plum tree. Judge-elect M. Ward Fleming will probably figure to a great extent in the juciest plum of strenuous, but of magnitude. Indeed, so insistent was it that certain memall, his successor as referee in bankruptcy in Centre county. Mr. Fleming has held this position ever since it was awarded him through the grace of the late Judge Henry C. Quigley, when he resigned to take the oath of office as Judge in January, 1916, and recommended Mr. Fleming as his successor. While the appointing power course, he does not appear before the committee; Secretary Mellon, innumlies with federal judge Albert W. Johnson he will likely be guided by erable chambers of commerce and boards of trade and buisness inter-Mr. Fleming's recommendation. And ests generally. Representatives of State Legislatures were there. it is only natural to suppose that he Vare machine were all elected by will recommend a Republican and as The tax is vicious in the extreme. The Government has never resorted

neys at the Centre county bar, and one of them is district attorney, we'll leave our readers to guess who the fortunate one is likely to be. Judge Fleming will also have to war-an effort to compel States to in-

appoint a court stenographer (which will probably be Gilbert S. Burrows.) a court crier, court messenger, four the Pennsylvania Tax Commission, managed to hold the attention of the tipstaves, a board of road and bridge viewers, and a private secretary to look after his office affairs. Federal position was so strong that he could not be sneeringly sidetrack-ed as so many others had been. He The new board of county commis-

sioners will have two clerks to appoint and an attorney for the board. The sheriff, the prothonotary and the treasurer will each have an appointment to make and it is rumored that all of them would like to have the same individual. As this will be impossible it will naturally leave an opening for two others and it goes withto that received by him last year out saying that there will be enough willing candidates on hand when the

> -It is said that President Coolidge has reproved Senator Fess, of Ohio, for persisting in the belief that he may be "drafted." But it may be

A Row Over Taxes on Estates.

engaged the Ways and Means commit-

demand for its abolition was not only

work; that the expenses of some of the witnesses were paid. Yet the op-

ponents of the existing law comprise

motive back of its retention since the

crease their rates in order to take ad-vantage of the rebate allowed by Con-

gress. Franklin Spencer Edmonds, of

committee because his attack on the

asserted that it was a mistake to put a misfit straightjacket around the

States; that any proposal by Congress to collect money and give some of it back to States in order to coerce

them into the adoption of a certain policy was detrimental in the extreme

and without warrant by the Consti-

the floor of the House and Senate over

the Federal grave raiders is apparent.

The Ways and Means committee is

divided. A group of Western Sena-tors has held a confab under the

guidance of Borah, the Wild Man of

Idaho. He insists that repeal will be

ought to the last, and says of the tax

That a fierce battle is imminent on

tutior

of

President Coolidge, although,

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

## SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

-Amos Eberly, Lancaster county farmer, to date is the 1927 champion potato grower. His yield of 651.4 bushels on a measured acre is the largest reported so far this year to E. L. Nixon, potato disease specialist of the Pennsylvania State College and founder of the famous Keystone 400 Bushel Potato Club.

-Leonard G. Yoder, a lawyer and attorney for the Berk's prison board, has offered every prisoner in the county jail a dollar if he attends religious services after his release. Yoder was the speaker at the weekly service and told 75 prisoners in attendance to get divorces of the kind for which no lawyer are needed-from John Barleycorn and bad company.

-A practical joke caused the death of Michael Garnis, 39, at Chester, last Friday. Two fellow workers in a dye house put what they thought was a lump of salt-Automobile and amusement taxes peter in a cup of coffee which Garnis drank. It turned out to be a deadly poltee for a portion of the week, but the son. The workmen, Richard Stewart, 18 subject that gave the most trouble was the Federal tax on estates. The and Harold Swope, 19, were held without bail for hearing in police court.

-Mrs. Sara Patterson, aged 31 years, of Huntingdon Furnace, was burned and the bers of the committee, obstinate ad-vocates of the ghoulish levy, quite lost family home destroyed early on Sunday in a blaze caused by an overheated stove. their heads in their resentment. They charged that a powerful lobby was at Mrs. Patterson was rescued after her clothing caught fire. She is in the Altoona hospital with severe burns of the chest, both arms and hands and both legs. Three children in the home were saved with minor burns.

-In memory of the late Dr. H. Freeman Stecker, for many years a professor of mathematics at the Pennsylvania State College, Ormelle Haines Stecker, his w1dow, has authorized the establishment of a scholarship. It is an award of \$50 in cash to be given each year to that member of the junior class in the School of Liberto it except temporarily in case of emergency. It really belongs to the individual States. There is a sinister -Sourceing through a window six in-

-Squeezing through a window six inches high and 28 inches wide, Richard J. Little, aged 22, Williamsport, escaped from a cell in the upper tier of the Lycoming county jail on Monday night and still is at large. He was being held for Court on charges of robbing a filling station near that city and a detainer charging him with desertion and nonsupport also had been ledged against him.

-An unmasked young man forced N. Maderos, night manager at the Crystal hotel, in Reading, into a linen closet when Maderos was alone, and robbed the safe ot about \$500. The man engaged a room and Maderos unlocked the safe to get change for the guest's advance payment, the stranger covered him with a gun. When the sounds of the stranger's operations ceased Maderos emerged and found stranger and money gone.

-Emmett W. Pytcher, for 21 years alderman of the Meadville Fourth ward, was on Monday evening convicted by a jury ou a charge of larceny. The direct charge was the conversion to his own use of \$500 placed in his hands as cash bail. Some he may be "drafted." But it may be noticed that the rebuke was of a very mild type. Strong Evidence of Crime. Former Secretary of the Interior, years ago Pytcher was subject of a coun-

at Tomhicken, five being rescued alive after eight days of imprisonment, was recalled when Mrs. Mabel Smith, widow of Charles Smith, the sixth prisoner, started suit against the Lehigh Valley Railroad for \$50,000 damages. Smith's body was found after six months of pumping. She sued the railroad instead of the coal company because, she claims, the railroad changed the course of a creek which broke through its new banks and flooded the mines. -Henry N. Reist, county agricultural agent of Warren county, since 1915, will assume the duties of agricultural economics extension specialist at the Pennsylvania State College this week. He succeeds Howard G. Niesley, who recently was chosen assistant director of agricultural extension work in this State. Reist is a native of Lancaster county. Graduated from Penn State in 1913 he taught agriculture in a Minnesota high school for two years before going into county agent work. In 1923 he earned a higher degree -Engineer J. E. Slattery, operating å Reading train between Pottsville and Tamaqua, on Saturday saved Daniel Feeley, year-and-a-half-old son of Hugh Feeley, New Philadelphia postmaster, from drowning. As Slattery's train was passing the lower section of New Philadelphta. he noticed the child fall off a chair and tumble into a creek. Applying the brakes immediately he brought the train to a stop and pulled the child out. The youngster was unconscious, but will recover. Some years ago, John Slattery, a brother of the engineer, saved another child from drowning in much the same manner. -John, better known as "Corporal 'Irish' " Hummel, of Lewistown, was crossing the tracks of the Milroy branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad at grade at Dorcas street, on Saturday, when the Sunbury passenger train struck his automobile, knocking off three wheels, rolling it over and over, and sending it to the junk yards. Hummel escaped uninjured. Hummel went through the World war, seventeen months in France, and got out with impaired hearing. He had a three-ton flask fall on him on the moulding floor of the Standard Steel works a year ago, and got away with the loss of a foot. He was elected justice of the peace Tuesday with an overwhelming majority, and Saturday

ing to write about in that ephemeral day that is our refuge in procrastination is the campaign that has just closed in Centre county. We have been in fairly knowing touch with the political situation in Centre county for forty-one years and we recall only one other contest that might have contributed as many dainty morsels for gossip as that of 1927 has done.

-We've got dollars to bet against doughnuts that Ruth Elder, who is Lyle Womack's wife, didn't really mean what she said when she gave him that goodbye kiss as he was embarking for their home on the Canal Zone. Ruth thought she was sincere when she said "I'll come back, dear." But she doesn't know humanity like those observers who have seen so many heads turned by less than she has to resist.

-The foot-ball season would be an utter failure for us if its close didn't of Nebraska, whose championship of produce a Philadelphia sports writer the public interests is widely acknowlto essay the role of conjuring up a better rating for Penn than her performance on the gridiron indicates. Ed Pollock, of the Ledger, a very clever writer, is now so busily engaged in pushing the Red and Blue into position of runner-up for Yale that he doesn't hear the rest of the eastern foot-ball world laughing.

-The Hon. Clinton D. Howard, who lectured here Monday night, got himself into somewhat of a peccadillo and was hoist on his own petard by one of his auditors. Mr. Howard was speaking on the prerogatives of .the American Constitution when a gentleman, who possibly had a very good reason for doing so, got up to leave the church. The orator was rather persistent in urging him to remain and must have realized that his chickens were coming home to roost when the departing gentleman audibly explained his departure as "exercising and mergers of some already chartertion.

-The London Evening Standard, a paper that has always prided it- ris, and which Senator Walsh is said self on its good English, takes ex- to have adopted, is to place electrical ception to the insistence of American production and distribution under conpurists that "It's me" is improper. The Standard bases its argument on Pinchot plan would be infinitely prefthe premise that language was; long erable if it were possible to procure before grammar undertook to explain unity of action among the States. So it, and changing linguistic facts is far as Pennsylvania is concerned it quite outside the province of grammarians. While we don't propose to ity for the people of this State. But inject ourselves into any highbrow Federal control is better than no condiscussion we can't resist the temptation to suggest that the American idea lawyer and too good a Democrat to in avoiding the cost of election ofof language ought to be based on the American ideal of majority rule. If such should be the application we win. The purpose of organizing the monop-For millions more here say "It's me" than "It is I."

-Texas Republicans threaten to vote for Coolidge in the coming National convention whether he "chooses" to run or not. Texas Republicans want to retain favor as long as possible.

# Bitter Fight in Congress.

If current newspaper comment is to be taken as a symptom the coming Congress will be the theater of an intensely bitter fight over the question of electric power. More than two years ago Governor Pinchot urged the Legislature of Pennsylvania to enact legislation that would protect this important and rapidly increasing source of power from the grasping control of monopoly. Since then Senator Norris. edged, brought the matter to the at-

tention of the United States Senate. It is now said that Senator Walsh, an equally zealous defender of popular rights, will urge Congressional incoming session.

There can be no doubt that a movement is in progress to monopolize, by mergers and consolidations of electric corporations, to centre control of the electric service in a very few big corporations, and it is equally certain that in the event the purpose is achieved the users of electric power will be victimized. Governor Pinchot's idea was to prevent or avery this danger by legislation vesting in the several States a supervisory authority over the production of, and charge for, electric current. It will be remembered that with this purpose in mind he refused to approve chared. Soon after the expiration of his term these restrictions were removed.

The plan outlined by Senator Nortrol of the federal government. The would be better even without this un- primaries and this waste will be trol, and Senator Walsh is too wise a recommend to the public a policy that ficers and machinery. would work evil rather than good. oly is already in progress and the sooner it is checked the better.

-The Soviet government of Rus-

sia has been operating for ten years have been murdered for disagreeing with the authorities.

### Early Start of a Good Fight.

It is not too early to begin an active campaign for the support of the proposed constitutional amendment providing for the use of voting machines. The vote of the people on the question will not be taken until the general election next year. But the opposition will be vigorous and the methods employed by the defendants or by Sinemployed against the amendment will be devious. The hope of success lies in education and that is a slow prostantly kept in mind. Clubs must be organized, public meetings held and literature provided. These things require time, talent and money but, they ought to be available in view of . the purpose in mind.

The recently formed Pennsylvania Elections association held a meeting vestigation of the subject during the in Philadelphia, recently, for the pur- Clark, vice president and general manpose of setting the campaign in motion. Representatives were present from many sections of the State and the Philadelphia Committee of Seventy gave assurance of earnest and active help in the work. Among the fused to give evidence for the same reasons given for the measure it was reason. said that it would be impossible with the use of voting machines to have a discrepancy between the votes cast and those recorded. That the use of machines would obviate the long and tedious processes of computation and the errors, willful and otherwise, incidental to the slow computation as centive is plain. The evidence of the well as diminishing the opportuni- conspiracy was presented in the Disties for fraudulent returns.

> be brought against the amendment ed by the Supreme court of the United will be the initial expense of procur- States. Conviction in a criminal court ing the machines. On this point the conferees stated that "voting machines will save money for taxpayers. that through the medium of a "hung" Not only are voting machines cheaper in the long run than the huge expenditures for printing ballots. Great sums are wasted annually on unused ballots. Literally tons of ballots were unused in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton alone at the recent avoided if voting machines are used." There can be no denial of this statement. But the greatest saving will be

-Those who expect a definite

declination from Coolidge will be disappointed.

Albert B. Fall, and Harry Sinclair, most contemptible tax ever devised. defendants on the charge of conspiracy to defraud the government in the lease of the Teapot Dome oil reserve, and only a few thousand persons continue to flout the law and the courts From the Philadelphia Record. Following the court order declaring a mistrial of the case the grand jury began an investigation of the statement that at least one of the jurors had been tampered with. As a result of this investigation it has been developed that a force of detectives operating under the direction of the had been "shadowing" the jurors almost from the beginning of the trial. It is believed these detectives were clair.

The significance of this surveillance depends largely upon its source. Of must be clearly presented and con- ethical, but unless a base purpose is shown, hardly criminal. If the reasonable suspicion that the defendants employed the detectives is verified turpitude would be clearly establishto reveal their employer, some of Sinclair's employes and business associates were subpoenaed. Sheldon ager of the Sinclair Refining company, refused to testify on the ground that his evidence "might incriminate him." Henry Mason Day, another official in the Sinclair enterprises, re-

There could hardly be more convincing proof, though it be entirely circumstantial, that Sinclair is directly responsble for this flagrant insult to the courts and outrage of justice, perpetrated almost within the shadow of the dome of the capitol. The intrict court and upon an appeal from The strongest arguments that will the judgment of guilt has been affirmmade a long term prison sentence inevitable and Sinclair hoped to avert jury or mistrial. Such obvious flouting of the law is without parallel in

the history of American jurisprudence. -An esteemed contemporary thinks the ambition of Senator Willis of Ohio is a joke. To return the "Ohio Crowd" to Washington would be a national tragedy.

-Only a few hunters have been shot thus far during the present season but a few is enough to show too much carelessness.

-Subscribe for the Watchman.

the implusive (but no longer youthful) Colonel Theodore Roosevelt threatened on Tuesday, in a campaign address to some New York Republican women, to eliminate Governor Al Smith from the political map if he did not promptly reply to some vague insinuations previously made by this Burns detective agency, of New York, mighty warrior, and at the same time to recall that this terrible threat was made on the day following the scathing indictment by the United States Supreme Court of the corrupt and fraudulent deals between Albert B. Fall and Harry F. Sinclair involving the Teapot Dome oil reserves. It will cess. The merits of the proposition itself it is unlawful, as well as un- Roosevelt was Assistant Secretary of be remembered that at that time the Navy and that, in the absence of Secretary Denby, he played a part, although a minor one, in the shocking sity of Wisconsin. scandal that has been unearthed. Under such circumstances it might nated. The detectives, having refused isistant Secretary would move cau-

tiously in making serious charges against other men, but no such restraint puts a curb on his tongue. Apparently he cannot forget the terrible beating he received from Governor Smith when he aspired to the latter's position in 1924.

The incident is interesting because it reveals how unlike his distinguished father is this Roosevelt of the same name. He appears to be without political poise of judgment and to look for advancement principally on the strength of his name. In this he differs radically from the sturdy youth who, disdaining such an advantage, fought his way from one post to an-other until he finally attained the Presidency. The New York World is not too severe on the son when it declares that "he makes up in brass what he lacks in brains."

The West Chester preacher who declares he will stay "until hell freezes over" is likely to need both an overcoat and linen duster.

-After Mayor Thompson, of adds another page to his adventures. Chicago, gets King George "into the clear" he might take Mussolini and thus stage a real battle.

The homing pigeons made a record for efficiency during the world war according to the biological survey in Washington.

-Charlie Schwab's Riverside Drive palace is for sale but it is safe to say the sheriff will have no part in conveying the title.

-Thus far Curtis, of Kansas, has betting circles.

-The rich and poor, the halt and blind, even the preachers, were eating chicken at Lewistown, over the week-end. There never before were so many chickens in the history of Mifflin county placed on the festive board. Five hundred and seventyone boxes of dressed chicken were broken in a wreck on the Pennsylvania Railroad at Longfellow on Tuesday. The poultry was en route from Glasgow, Ky., to New York and was refused on account of the delay incident to the wreck. Sergeant Davis, of the Pennsylvania Railroad police, was instructed to sell the chickens for whatever he could obtain, so he fixed the price at three large ones for \$1. The price was well within the reach of all and they not taken the place of "favorite" in went like hot cakes. The birds were frozen and wrapped in tissue paper.

Very Unlike His Dad. It is rather diverting to read that